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CHRIST AMONG MEN.

JAMES McCONAUGHY.

L. A. B.

CHRIST AMONG MEN.

A STUDY

OF THE

UNFOLDING OF HIS CHARACTER AND MINISTRY

IN

PERSONAL INTERCOURSE.

ARRANGED BY

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NEW YORK:

The International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations.

1892.

(15-1-274-12-92.)

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No. 313.

For list of publications in the "College Series," see last pages.

Introduction.

These courses of study have been prepared for use in Bible Training Classes. Such classes are now held in Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, in Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor, and in city missions. They will prove helpful in all lines of Christian work where the central aim is to bring the unsaved to Christ.

A full discussion of the methods to be followed with a course of study which naturally precedes and lays the foundation for these courses will be found in "Personal Work, How Organized and Accomplished," by C. K. Ober and J. R. Mott (revised edition), which should be in the hands of all who follow the studies herein given.

The series of lessons is divided into three courses of ten lessons each. Any one of the three is sufficiently independent to be studied alone, where the full course

does not seem practicable. A break between courses — at the holidays, for example — is often of advantage in rallying the forces and introducing new students into the classes. In college Associations, a course of ten lessons is well adapted to each college term.

Helps on the life of Christ are so numerous that there is great danger of letting them do all the student's thinking for him. Andrews' "Life of Christ" (Scribner's), Broadus' "Jesus of Nazareth" (Armstrong), Stalker's "Life of Christ" (Revell), and Stalker's "Imago Christi" (American Tract Society), are especially desirable if used judiciously.

When you come to the study, immerse yourself in the Gospels; use the best translation, the Revised Version; compare the parallel accounts, for which you will find of special value a consecutive arrangement like that of "The Interwoven Gospels" (John B. Alden, new edition, $1.00). Prayerfully try to put yourself in Christ's place, think His thoughts, speak His words, and you will find yourself living His life, and doing His work.

CHRIST AMONG MEN.

COURSE A.

I. The Period of Preparation.

Lesson 1. *With His family.*

[In a mechanic's home.]

Relationship with God above all human ties.

Luke 2 : 40-52.

Preparing for the broader sphere by the way in which He filled the narrow one.

John 2 : 1-12.
Mark 3 : 21, 22, 31-35.
John 19 : 26, 27.

Kinship in faith and in obedience the strongest of ties.

John 7 : 1-10.
1. Cor. 15 : 7.
James 1 : 1 ; 5 : 19, 20.
Jude 1, 2, 24.

Winning His unbelieving brethren.

II. The Period of Introduction.

Lesson 2. *With workingmen eager for a new era.*

[At an out-door meeting.]

Personal acquaintance leads to discipleship.

John 1 : 29-51.

The kind of men Christ enlists. On their level He wins their confidence, showing them themselves and Himself.

Lesson 3. *With one who recognized His authority, but stumbled at His teaching.*

[In a house at the Capital.]

A spiritual birth into a spiritual kingdom.

John 3 : 1-15.

Fundamental truth declared, reiterated, illustrated, applied.

Lesson 4. *With a woman of alien race, prejudiced mind, and bad reputation.*

[At a well-side.]

God seeks true worshippers.

John 4 : 1-42.

Easy converse on new and highest themes. Sin delicately laid bare. Discussion avoided. The Messiah revealed.

Lesson 5. *With the despised and outcast.*

[On the road and at a feast.]

Personal contact between physician and patient.

Mark 1 : 40-45 ; 2 : 13-17.

The spirit of sympathy. The word of command. The touch of restoration.

III. The Period of Widening Influence.

Lesson 6. *With men zealous of the forms of religion, but possessing none of its spirit.*

[In the fields and at church.]

"The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

Mark 2 : 23 – 3 : 6.

Fellowship with the hungry and the helpless. God's purpose in forms and observances. Professing lips, yet hardening hearts.

Lesson 7. *With a disheartened witness seeking the removal of his doubts.*

[On a journey.]

Fuller knowledge of Jesus brings peace to mind and heart.

Luke 7 : 18-35.

Bringing doubts to the one who can banish them. Abundant evidence for the sincere enquirer. The unreasonableness of men with perverted hearts. The blessedness of even the humblest in His kingdom.

LESSON 8. *With representatives of opposite social classes.*

[At a feast.]

Christ reads hearts and forgives sins.

Luke 7 : 36-50.

Attracting one whom men disdained. A delicate but searching rebuke for the self-righteous caviler. Confession, forgiveness, love, peace.

LESSON 9. *With men who ascribe the effects of Christianity to unfit causes.*

[In a crowded house.]

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit the one eternal sin.

Matt. 12 : 22-37.

A time for plain speaking. False charges of bitter opponents. Words the exponents of the heart. Either for or against.

Matt. 10 : 24-33.

His followers must confess Him boldly.

LESSON 10. *With men who are seeking the loaves and fishes.*

[In a city church.]

"The true bread out of heaven."

John 6 : 22-71.

The question of the ages (vs. 28, 42, 52). What men need and how to get it. Welcomed and guarded unto eternal life. Appropriating Christ and living forever.

REVIEW. Characteristics of the first three periods.

Supreme truths proclaimed at the outset to single individuals.

Different effects of His teaching, and causes thereof.

COURSE B.

IV. The Period of Misunderstanding and Opposition.

Lesson 1. *With one who follows Him, yet misconceives His mission.*

[At a place of prayer.]

The way of the Cross the only path to glory.

Matt. 16 : 13-20.

Men's views and God's.
Confession followed by usefulness.

Mark 8 : 31-38.

Life-plans viewed from Christ's standpoint.

Lesson 2. *With a follower who shows an intolerant spirit.*

[At a conference of workers.]

Fellowship in Christ's service.

Mark 9 : 38-50.

Success in casting out devils a good evidence of discipleship. Fight enemies, not allies. Preserve the savour of Christ.

LESSON 3. *With men of divided heart.*

[On the road to sacrifice.]

Leave all to follow Christ.

Luke 9 : 57-62.

Count the cost. Put your heart in His work. Proclaim and inherit the kingdom.

LESSON 4. *With men too wise in their own conceit to learn anything.*

[At a place of teaching.]

Doing His will illuminates His teaching.

John 7 : 11-52.

Prejudiced leaders; perplexed people. Living water for a thirsty world.

LESSON 5. *With one who has learned but little, yet knows that little well.*

[On a city street.]

Jesus opens blind eyes.

John 9 : 1-41.

Men speculate as to the cause. *Christ* removes both cause and effect. Obedience required; courageous confession rewarded; knowledge increased.

LESSON 6. *With one who tries to make use of Him for selfish ends.*

[In a crowd.]

Heaven the place for treasure-storing.

Luke 12; 13-34.

The folly of worldly calculations. The peril of covetousness. The comfort of trusting God.

V. The Period of Intenser Life.

Lesson 7. *With one who treats salvation as a subject of speculation.*

[On the road again.]

Neglected opportunities will become bitter memories.

Luke 13 : 23-30.

A personal answer to a general question. Religious privileges increase condemnation. Enter while the door is open.

Lesson 8. *With dearest friends under the shadow of mysterious affliction.*

[In the home He loved best on earth.]

No real death for believers in Jesus.

John 11 : 1-46.

The smiling face behind the frowning Providence. The glory of God seen by believing ones. The voice that rules the spirit world.

Lesson 9. *With a young man of narrow and selfish views.*

[On a highway.]

The danger of loving this world too well.

Mark 10 : 17-31.

The eager approach. Having what the world covets, yet unsatisfied. The test of discipleship.

LESSON 10. *With an older man made rich by unworthy means.*

[In a crowd of travellers.]

Christ asks immediate admittance to heart and home.

Luke 19 : 1-10.

The Saviour seeks the lost; receives a public and joyful welcome. When Christ enters unworthy loves depart. The true son of Abraham.

REVIEW. To what extent will the life and work of every true Christian show the characteristics of Christ's career during these two periods?

What is the central thought in Christ's mind here?

What are the great lessons He teaches in the inner circle of His friends?

In the outer circle of listeners?

COURSE C.

VI. The Days of Culmination.

Lesson 1. *With men on the lookout for some new sensation.*

[At a religious festival.]

Salvation for all men through a crucified and glorified Saviour.

John 12 : 20-36.

The desire of the foreigners. The judgment of this world. The rule for fruit-bearing.

Lesson 2. *With men convinced of the truth, but not willing to confess it.*

[Among friends and foes.]

Judged by our treatment of God's message.

John 12 : 36-50.

Caring more for men's opinions than God's. Life for those who obey the command. Condemnation for those who reject.

LESSON 3. *With men who traffic in religion.*

[In the temple.]

Who have a right in God's church?

Matt. 21 : 12-17.
See also John 2 : 13-25.

Zeal for God excludes fear of men. Majesty and gentleness in union. Perfected praise.

LESSON 4. *With men who try to entrap Him with hard questions.*

[On the witness stand.]

Christ is Lord of all.

Matt. 22 : 15-46.

The plot and its emissaries. Duties to God and man. The causes of error. The supreme question.

LESSON 5. *With true followers of Christ who show a false spirit*

[In the upper room.]

The true Christian his brother's servant.

Luke 22 : 24-30.
John 13 : 1-17.

Jarring notes on the saddest of nights. The gentleness of love's rebuke. The remedy for earth-stains. The Master's example.

LESSON 6. *With the self-confident Christian worker.*

[At the supper table.]

Watchfulness and prayer for the tempted.

John 13 : 36-38.
Luke 22 : 31-34.
Matt. 26 : 36-41.
Luke 22 : 54-62.

Satan's hour of opportunity. Warning and promise. The way to overcome. The way to fail.

LESSON 7. *With a public man who would do right if it did not cost so much.*

[In the court room.]

Individual responsibility.

John 18 : 28-38.
Luke 23 : 4-22.
John 19 : 4-13.
Matt. 27 : 24-26.

The witness to the truth. From indifference to interest. Efforts to shift responsibility. Knowing the right, yet doing the wrong. The stain that water could not remove.

VII. After the Resurrection.

Lesson 8. *With disheartened and befogged followers.*

[Along a footpath.]

The cure for sad hearts.

Luke 24 : 14-35.

Talking of Jesus brings Him near. He enlightens their ignorance. He removes their perplexity. He warms their hearts. He makes them witnesses of His resurrection.

Lesson 9. *With one who required convincing evidence.*

[In a private room.]

Peace through believing.

John 20 : 24-29.
See also John 14 : 5-7.

Patience with honest doubt. Evidences ample and specific. The gentle rebuke; the promise of blessing.

Lesson 10. *With one who had been worsted by Satan.*

[On the lake shore.]

Love the true motive for service.

John 21 : 1-19.

Loving attentions for the cold and hungry. The question that probes the heart. The lesson learned by experience. Following in the Master's steps.

Review. The reiteration in His teaching of truths already presented to the Jerusalem audience.

Thoughtfulness for His followers in hours of His own greatest need.

Perpetuating and multiplying His influence through others.

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Published by
The International Committee of
Young Men's Christian
Associations,

40 East Twenty-third Street,
New York City.

1892.